



(Photo by Maj. Jason Tomasetti 2-2 Inf.)

Up, up and away!

Sgt. Tracey McCollin and Sgt. Rodrigo Raeder of 2nd Base Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, wait for the UH-60 helicopter to arrive in order to hook-up during sling load operations March 1 at Forward Operating Base Rustamiyah in eastern Baghdad.

Unit reaching out to Al Doura residents

By Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Face time. It's seems to be a term used more by celebrities than Soldiers, but as Iraqi Army and national policemen go on patrols with coalition forces, face time is something one unit is saying is very important to their mission of capturing the bad guys.

On what's become a normal patrol mission in Baghdad's northwest Al Doura, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry

Division Soldiers are using the results of their "face time" to help catch the enemy.

"Our presence is very important," said Staff Sgt. Juan A. Lopez, a Bronx, N.Y. native. "The [locals] will talk to us and tell us where the caches and insurgence are, they will tell us about new people who have moved into their neighborhood and maybe are threatening them ... It's a positive we are here everyday. That way, little-by-little, we can make a difference."

On a patrol of one neighborhood in the humvees, children were peeking out of their gates and waiving to the Soldiers

through their bulletproof glass. "Wave at them man," Lopez told one of his Soldiers in the vehicle. "They might remember you later and say, 'hey, I waived at that Soldier when I was a little kid.'"

Lopez, who, back in the Bronx, has a Yemenese friend who taught him some Arabic phrases, uses it to reach out to the community. When he and his Soldiers walk around the market, they are swarmed by young children. Lopez uses his limited

See Al Doura Page 2

Soldiers work on community relations

Al Doura

From Page 1

Arabic to joke with the children.

In one of the muhallas, or neighborhoods, there is a thriving marketplace within what used to be a traffic circle. The locals go there to buy fresh fish, produce, clothes, shoes and other items. As recent as

a month ago, insurgent activity forced a lot of them to stay away from the market. Lopez and his unit had seen some fierce fighting there. During the battle, the coalition forces fought the insurgents out of the neighborhood.

In a way, the locals have, in casual meetings with the coalition forces, learned to embrace them. During their cordon and

search missions the Soldiers commonly refer to as "block parties," it's not uncommon for the locals to ask Soldiers and Iraqi National Police officers to come in and have some tea.

According to Lopez, a lot of the people their unit has caught have been a direct result of their presence patrols and the bonds they make during them.

"One day, a lady told us to take someone because he was a cell leader," he recalled. "It wouldn't be like that if we weren't out here. We found a lot of guys and caches because of all the tips [from the locals]."

During a recent block party, Lopez and his team searched a house of a couple with a small child. When asked how they felt about being searched, the husband said he didn't mind it - that it made their community safer to have Soldiers around.

Another important relationship they have fostered is the one they have with the Iraqi National Police.

"We can't do everything, so that's why we work with the NPs (national police)," he said. "And now that the Iraqi Army is here, the [insurgents] are pulling out. It makes a difference, and that's what they want."



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Bronx, N.Y., native Staff Sgt. Juan A. Lopez, speaks a little Arabic with some Iraqi children during his unit's patrol of a market in Baghdad's Al Doura district.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

qalam

Defined:
pen

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 70
Low: 52



Tomorrow

High: 72
Low: 52



Monday

High: 76
Low: 52

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Editor: Spc. Shea Butler
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim, Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp, Spc.

Courtney Marulli, Pfc. Ben Fox
Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.
The Daily Charge is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.



(Photo by Pfc. Ben Fox 3-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Spc. Garfield Pellhum, prepares his M240-B machine gun before going on a mission with the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Military Transition Team, assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in the Diyala province of Iraq, Feb. 17.

Diyala MiTT helps Iraqi army succeed

**By Pfc. Ben Fox
3-1 Cav. Public Affairs**

BAQUBAH, Iraq - Coalition forces in Diyala province in Iraq bring important strategic military force to the area, but their efforts can only go so far.

It is the Iraqi military that needs to take the lead, which is what military transition teams, or MiTTs, bring to the fight.

A MiTT is comprised of coalition force Soldiers from various job fields who work with Iraqi Army Soldiers at division, brigade and battalion levels.

"The number one job for (our) MiTT is to help the Iraqi Army brigade that we work with to transition to the point that they can step up to complete operations on their own," said Lt. Col. Jay George, the commander for the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army MiTT.

"All of the guys we deal with down there seem very eager to learn," said Staff Sgt. Robert Lindstrom, a Corry, Penn. native and 2-5 MiTT Soldier.

If the MiTT tells them how everything needs to be done, they aren't learning anything, he said.

Spc. Garfield Pellhum, native to St. Roberts, Miss., said before he goes out on missions with the Iraqis, he does certain routines to show them a system of checks before leaving.

"I think that the MiTT teams are actually

accomplishing what needs to be accomplished for Iraq to have a working Army," said Lindstrom.

"The Iraqi Army needs to be Iraq's force for the future," said George. The Iraqi Army needs to be the military arm of the government that can respond the way the government needs it to, he said.

Each Soldier on the MiTT partners with staff sections and members in the Iraqi Army brigade, said George. They also help them tactically by bringing assets such as air strikes and indirect fire to the fight, he said.

"This time I know we are making a difference," said Lindstrom, who previously deployed in 2004. "I can see that first hand."

"From the last deployment to this deployment... the IA has come leaps and bounds from the last time I was here," he said. "The sooner that their army stands up and completely stands by itself... the United States Army can finish the mission," he said.

"When they do that on their own, then we have succeeded, and the United States Army can start stepping back out of the picture," said George.

George said he has seen the IA making progress.

"I do see that the Iraqi Army is moving forward," he said.

"They are on the right track," said George. "It is just going to take time."

Baghdad in Brief

Troopers come to aid of injured Iraqi toddler in Mushada

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers assisted in the medical evacuation of a two-year-old Iraqi girl March 1 after she fell from a truck near the city of Mushada, Iraq.

Troopers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment were on a patrol when they came upon a wounded child and her father, who told the Soldiers his daughter had fallen from the vehicle.

The Soldiers immediately called for an urgent medical evacuation.

Shortly afterward, the girl and her father were airlifted to the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, where the girl underwent surgical procedures.

From the time the Soldiers found the child to the time she arrived at the 28th CSH, took place in a span of just 45 minutes.

At this time, the condition of the child is unknown.

Paratroopers find large ammunition cache south of Baghdad

KALSU, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers uncovered a large ammunition cache containing more than 100 mortar rounds south of Baghdad March 2.

Paratroopers from 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division located the cache near Bahbahani while on a dismounted patrol.

The cache contained 87 60mm mortar rounds, 15 82mm rounds, two 120mm rounds, one 122mm round, 16 130mm rounds and two 155mm rounds.

An explosive ordnance disposal team secured the cache for a controlled detonation.

Iraqi Army medics train with help from U.S. Army

By Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp
1-1 Cav. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- The sounds of explosions fill the air and bullets whiz past the heads of Iraqi Army medics as they perform life-saving medical procedures on their wounded brothers-in-arms on a battlefield.

Bearing stretchers, these combat medics carry their wounded countrymen to awaiting field ambulances. In some instances they must provide security, engaging enemy fighters as they wait for military aircraft to evacuate their more seriously wounded comrades to military medical facilities.

These were the types of scenarios Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized) faced during a tactical combat casualty care course instructed by Soldiers from Medical Company C, 115th Brigade Support Battalion March 1 on Camp Taji, Iraq.

For three weeks, Soldiers from the company have been teaching Iraqi Army medics and a few Iraqi transportation troops in classes designed to prepare them for treating wounded troops in the combat environment. The students in the course included Iraqi troops from the 2nd and 3rd Brigade of the 9th IA Div. (Mech.) and the division's logistics battalion.

"This serves as some refresher training for some of them, and for others this is all new," said Tallassee, Ala. native Staff Sgt. Lisa Woods, a platoon sergeant for the medical company and noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Taji's Muleskinner clinic.

"It's very rewarding to see what they're putting into it," added Woods. "They get totally engaged in it and they really want to learn."

The training was a team effort.

The Soldiers worked with an Iraqi Army platoon leader, an Iraqi Army pharmacist and an Iraqi environmental officer. Military transition team medical advisors were also on hand to observe the training.

During morning lectures, Iraqi Army soldiers did hands on instruction in preventing bleeding, preventing shock, learning how to give intravenous fluids, managing trauma, splinting fractures and many other life-saving techniques.

They also were given realistic trauma



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Soldiers from 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized) carry a comrade on a stretcher acting as a simulated casualty March 1 during a tactical combat casualty care course on Camp Taji, Iraq.

lanes to train on which allowed them to perform in a simulated combat environment using their classmates acting as casualties.

Speakers blared battle sounds of gunfire and explosions while the Iraqi troops going through the lanes rushed to the aid of their comrades who donned rubber appliances - representing various injuries.

Simulated wounds ranged from fractures to amputations and head injuries to abdominal wounds.

"We'll be depending upon these guys when they go outside the wire, so it's very important for them to not be too surprised by the types of things they'll see and encounter when they're in (the actual combat environment)," said Sgt. Haider Al Salami, an Iraqi Army combat medic serving in the 9th IA Div., who holds a degree in nursing and aided in the training.

Although U.S. Soldiers served as the main instructors for the course, they said they wanted to do things the Iraqi way.

"We're not trying to change their household," Woods said. "But rather to add to the things they've already had. We're not telling them 'you need to do it this way' or the American way, but we're doing it their way."

"We've taken their past experiences and continue building on them and they're more receptive to this way of training," added Woods. "We're hoping they will continue

doing it their way."

Due to an obvious language barrier, there were many obstacles instructors had to overcome during 8-hour training days.

"It has been extremely challenging, and we used a lot of help from our interpreters, many of them have seen people die on missions, so they know the importance of being able to stress emphasis on medical things in the class room," Woods said.

"Without their knowledge and skills, we could not have transferred the right information to our soldiers and built a solid foundation for them," said Al Salami.

Those who aided in the training said they were impressed with how the Iraqi troops performed.

"I have confidence that when we go out as a MiTT outside the wire, they can save each other or one of us if necessary," said Capt. Michael Whiddon, a medical operations MiTT advisor and a native of Purvis, Miss.

"They're obviously making progress," said Al Salami. "When they first came to the course they barely knew anything, but now they are very proficient."

It was another way for them to build bonds.

"We work together as brothers," said Al Salami. "The Iraqi soldiers used to ask each other 'what sect are you, what religion?' Now we've got just one sect-we are one family."

A Soldier's journey from childhood to military bliss

By Spc. Courtney Marulli
2-2 Inf. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq - Little boys playing with G.I. Joes may not seem like anything significant, but for some, the future is literally in their hands. For one boy, those games led him to the military and United States citizenship.

When Spc. Luis Perez was two years old, he and his mother moved to the United States from Guatemala and lived in Dallas. They stayed there for almost two years before moving to Bronx, New York in 1983, where they met up with Perez's father.

His interest in the military began in New York as a child where he would play war games and with G.I. Joe figures. Perez said he focused on the Army as a child, but his vision changed to the Marines when his family moved back to Dallas in 1991.

Perez said he had never seen a Marine's photo before and was taken by the uniform and the overall presence.

"The uniform caught my eye," he said.

Perez began asking people what the Marines are like and doing research on his own to find out about the "Few and the Proud".

During high school, Perez participated in Junior Reserve Officer Training Course for four years. He attended a JROTC camp at Fort Sill, Okla., which was the first time he set foot on a military base. He began to get motivated and found himself surpassing all of his peers by gaining the ranks of cadet sergeant and finally, cadet major.

Perez graduated from South Oak Cliff High in Dallas in 1998, and then attended Marine boot camp. He served as a paralegal for four years in the Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

His life in the Marines was a good one, but he needed to get out to attend to personal matters and was honorably discharged in 2002. He spent the



(Photo by Spc. Courtney Marulli 2-2 Inf. Public Affairs)

Spc. Luis F. Perez, a paralegal for 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, became a United States citizen Feb. 11 during a ceremony at LSA Anaconda.

next four years trying to make things comfortable for his family in the civilian world.

Perez said he wanted to go back into the Marines, but when he went to join again, there were time constraints involved, and he didn't have the time to wait. So, he walked next door to the Army recruiter and enlisted in November 2005.

"I went to sleep dreaming 'Marine Corps' and I woke up Army green," he said. "I realize it's not the uniform that makes the Soldier or Marine, but the Soldier or Marine that makes the uniform."

Initially, Perez felt like he was betraying the Marines, but his old staff sergeant told Perez that his focus should be to taking care of his family, and that his family should come first and he would have made the same decision.

Once in the Army, Perez said it took two years to wear down his Marine mentality. He is still connected to the Corps because his little brother serves in the

Marines.

His first duty station in the Army was Fort Carson, Colo., as a paralegal for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Infantry Division, where he processed enlisted separations in the military justice section of the Fort Carson Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

He now serves as a paralegal for 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

This is just the beginning of his military journey though, Perez said he wants to reenlist, as he feels this is the life for him.

His military future is more stable with Perez becoming a U.S. citizen Feb. 11 during a ceremony at LSA Anaconda in Balad, Iraq with the long distance support of his wife, Mayra and their three children, Aileen, Emily and Natalie.

Perez became a resident of the United States in 1995, but had been living on a visa before that.

Serving in the Army helped Perez appreciate what the United States stands for. He credited the Fort Carson Office of the Staff Judge Advocate with helping him achieve the goal of citizenship.

Perez said when the Sept. 11 attacks occurred; he realized he needed to become a citizen in order to stay in the country that he loved and pretty much the only country he knew, since the rules had gotten stricter.

With his citizenship, Perez said he can gain a security clearance so he can keep his job. Also, this has become a family affair. His wife recently left for Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, S.C., as she has always wanted to join the military too.

Since Perez received encouragement from his unit to gain citizenship, he is doing the same for others.

"I am helping people get their packets together," he said. It's time consuming, but not impossible for Soldiers to achieve.

"Anyone who wants it, the time to do it is now," Perez said.